

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /152 W

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R 191005Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8080

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2561

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CY

SUBJECT: ARMS AND THE GOC

REF: NICOSIA 2498

1. DEC 18 GRIVASITE "ETHNIKI" RESURRECTED SPECTRE OF ARMS IMPORT CLAIMING GOVT HAS ORDERED NEW QUANTITY ARMORED CARS WHICH DUE ARRIVE CYPRUS NEXT FEW DAYS. STORY CARRIED NO FURTHER DETAILS BUT LABORED ON PARALLEL WITH 1972 IMPORT OF SIMILAR VEHICLES. SAME DAY PIO ISSUED ANGRY STATEMENT DENYING BOTH "ETHNIKI" STORY AND "RECENT RUMORS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS BEING MADE OR ORDERS HAVING BEEN PLACED WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR ARMS WHICH HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN LOADED ON A SHIP NOW ON ITS WAY TO A CYPRUS PORT FOR UNLOADING AND DISTRIBUTION." ELABORATE PHRASING HAS SUSPICIOUS ODOR AND LEAVES OBVIOUS LOOPHOLES FOR GOVT; IT IS

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FAR FROM A BLANKET DENIAL THAT GOVT INTENDS IMPORT NEW ARMS. ONLY EDITORIALS DEC. 19 ARE "ETHNIKI", AND COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI"

UPHOLDING GOVT'S RIGHT DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST GRIVASITE
THREAT "BY ALL MEANS."

2. AT DINNER LAST NIGHT GREEK AMB. LAGACOS SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE WITH AMBASSADOR ATHENS' CONCERN OVER CONTINUING REPORTS THAT GOCYPRUS HAS TRANSACTED TO IMPORT NEW ARMS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. TWICE RECENTLY, HE SAID, HE HAD RAISED SUBJECT WITH MAKARIOS WHO DENIED ANY SUCH TRANSACTION OR INTENTION. LAGACOS SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD IN ATHENS THAT THE U.S. WAS SIMILARLY CONCERNED AND ASKED WHETHER WE WERE PLANNING TO RAISE THE MATTER.

3. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT WE HAD WHAT WE CONSIDERED RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THE GOCYPRUS HAD NEGOTIATED FOR SUCH ARMS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THAT WE DID INTEND EXPRESS OUR CONCERN. LAGACOS WILL BE REPORTING FOREGOING TO ATHENS.

4. OUR REQUEST TO SEE MAKARIOS WAS MADE EARLIER YESTERDAY. UK HICOMER OLVER HAS RECEIVED LONDON'S APPROVAL TO HOING WITH US IN DEMARCHE AND WE WILL COORDINATE OUR APPROACH. OLVER HAS LONGSTANDING REQUEST TO SEE MAKARIOS FOR OTHER REASONS. WE BOTH FULLY ANTICIPATE RECEIVING SAME DENIAL WHICH LAGACOS AND OSORIO-TAFALL HAVE RECEIVED. IN LIGHT OF PIO STATEMENT, WHICH MAY BE READ AS DIRECTED AT U.S. AND UK, ENTIRELY POSSIBLE ARCHBISHOP WILL KEEP REQUESTS TO SEE HIM AT ARM'S LENGTH FOR A WHILE.
MCCLOSKEY

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